

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 03695 231345Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2956

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3695

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, EAID, MILI, CM, US

SUBJ: WATT NEW?

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 3484, (B) YAOUNDE 1376, (C) STATE 115986

(D) YAOUNDE 2181

SUMMARY: IT BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT GURC IS PLAYING A WAITING GAME WITH RESPECT CONSIDERATION OF OUR REQUEST TO ESTABLISH WATTS BASE STATION. THIS MESSAGE PROPOSES COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGE GURC TO GIVE FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT I BE AUTHORIZED SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL EBOUA AND BRING HIM UP TO DATE ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND INDICATE THAT DUE NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, ZERO BASE BUDGETING AND DESIRE HELP OTHER COUNTRIES WHO FEEL SIMILARLY THREATENED, SOME OVERT GESTURE OF AFFINITY OF INTERESTS WOULD FACILITATE OUR CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FMS CREDITS AND TRAMSCAM III. END SUMMARY

2. OUR REQUEST TO GURC FOR PERMISSION ESTABLISH WATTS BASE STATION NOW PENDING OVER ONE YEAR. USG HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN RESPONDING TO PROBLEMS RAISED ABOUT LOCATION OF STATION AND QUESTIONS ON NATURE OF OPERATION AND GUR CRIGHT OF INSPECTION. IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 03695 231345Z

PARALLEL, AND PERHAPS NOT UNLINKED IN GURC CONSIDERATION OF OUR REQUEST, USG HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN GIVING FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO TRANSCAM III AND FMS CREDITS. HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF NUMEROUS EFFORTS ATTEMPT SEEK EARLY RESOLUTION OF MATTER, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN GIVEN NO INDICATION OF EITHER AFFIRMATIVE OR NEGATIVE RESPONSE. FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND FROM OUR OWN

EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING SEND HIGH PRECEDENCE TRAFFIC
NEARBY POSTS (ESPECIALLY NDJAMENA AND BANGUI), IT OBVIOUS OUR
NEED SEEK SOLUTION ON BASE STATION LOCATION BECOMING INCREASINGLY
CRITICAL.

3. THEREFORE, WHILE I RELUCTANT MAKE DIRECT LINKAGE OF OUR
RESPONSE TO GURC ON THEIR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE
ON TRANSCAM AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT, I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS
COME WHEN I SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH
PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL EBOUA IN ORDER SEEK HIS
ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING A YES OR NO ANSWER TO OUR WATTS
REQUEST. IN MY OPINION, APPROACH TO EBOUA SHOULD BE MADE
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR SMYTHE IN ORDER
THAT HER MISSION NOT BE CLOUDED
BY THIS OUTSTANDING MATTER, PARTICULARLY IF HOST GOVERNMENT
NOT WILLING GIVE DEFINITE RESPONSE(AS WAS THE CASE IN OVIRY
COAST) OR THE RESPONSE IS NEGATIVE. ADDITIONALLY, PRESIDENT
AHIDJO EXPECTED LEAVE ON VACATION AFTER RAMADAN (SEPT 15) AND
BELIEVE WE SHOULD ATTEMPT RESOLVE MATTER BEFORE HIS DEAPRTURE.

4. BASIS OF REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WOULD BE TO BRIEF EBOUA
ON CURRENT SITUATION WITH RESPECT THEIR MILITARY EQUIPMENT
AND TRANSCAM REQUESTS IN THAT PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED
AUTHORIZATION BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL IN CONFERENCE.
I WILL THEN POINT OUT OUR BUDGETARY CYCLE FO FY 79
ALREADY BEGINNING AND I AM PREPARED TO RECOMMEND
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PAGE 03 YAOUND 03695 231345Z

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AT THE FY 78 LEVELS. (AS I HAVE DONE PER
REFTEL A). HOWEVER, DUE OUR NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, ZERO
BASE BUDGETING AND OUR DESIRE BE HELPFUL OTHER COUNTRIES WHO
FEEL SIMILARLY THREATENED (SOMALIA, SUDAN AND CHAD), THERE
INCREASED PRESSURES ATTEMPT CUT BACK ON ALL BUT MOST ESSENTIAL
PROGRAMS. THEREFORE, IF GURC COULD GIVE SOME POSITIVE INDICATION
THAT IN VIEW OF ITS DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND PERCEIVED THREATS
IT QWSO RECOGNIZES AN INCREASED COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS WITH
US BY AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER TO OUR WATTS REQUEST, THEN I AM
SURE THAT CONTINUED SUPPORT OF GURC NEEDS WILL RECEIVE AS
SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION AS POSSIBLE BY THE DEPARTMENT.

5. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT IF THERE ARE ANY
FURTHER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN WITH RESPECT TO
WATTS, WE BE SO INFORMED AND IF DEEMED DESIRABLE BY
GURC THE DEPARTMENT IS WILLING TO SEND A TECHNICAL TEAM TO
RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING MATTERS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD
HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PREPARE AN UPDATED AGREEMENT
IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASE STATION.

6. IF POSSIBLE, WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR SMYTHE'S CONCURRENCE
THIS PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION.

7. ADVISE.
MITHOEFER

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